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INDIANA JONES™
THUNDER IN THE ORIENT
Hugh Fleming '93
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THUNDER IN THE ORIENT

CHAPTER THREE

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DARK HORSE COMICS®

WE'RE IN THE JAWS OF A VISE, PROFESSOR JONES—
AN ARMY OF AFGHAN WARRIORS ...MAD AS HORNETS... ON OUR HEELS!
ANOTHER HORDE UP AHEAD, CUTTING US OFF!
NO OPTIONS, KALI.
WE CHANGE COURSE!

THIS WAY!
MOSLEM THIEVES!
KIDNAPPERS! WHERE ARE OUR WIVES?
OUR DAUGHTERS?
HINDU HEATHENS!
KAFIR! INFIDELS!

MOSLEM BANDITS!
CLANK
KAFIR! INFIDELS!
KRAK
DEATH TO THE INFIDEL!
CRASH
THWMP
KRRUNK
BLAM
LISTEN TO THAT...
THEY'RE WHIPPING UP A FRENZY!
INDY- WHOA
OA!
MOVE IT!
WE CAN'T STOP NOW!
INDY, ARE YOU CRAZY!!

OHH
OHHH
OHOHH
SPLASH
GASP
SOPHIE! KHAMAL!
KALI...?

INDY!!
WHERE ARE YOU?
OMIGOD! THE CURRENT'S TAKING ME!
EPP-P-PEND! INDY! KHAMAL DOES NOT SWIM! STICK TO HORSE LIKE GLUE. BE B-BRAVE SERVANT BOY!
MAKE YOU PROUD!
SURE, I'M PROUD OF YOU, KID!
KID?!
YOU START AGAIN!
KHAMAL IS NOT THE OFFSPRING OF A GOAT!
SORRY, KI... UH, KHAMAL.
INDY! LISTEN...

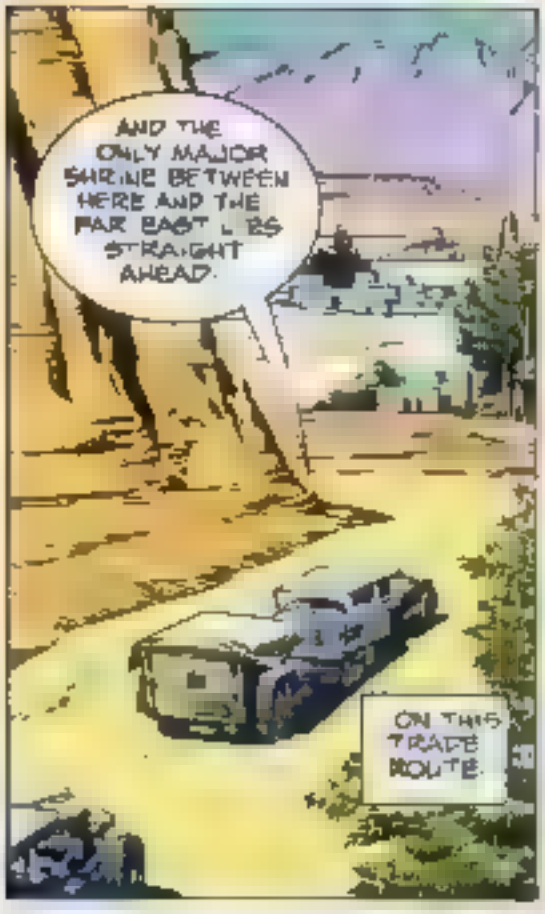
CLIPPETYCLOPCLOPCLIPCLOPCLIPPETYCLIPCLOP

WHAT'S ALL THE HOLLERING, KALI? A DEATH CHANT?
CAN'T MAKE IT OUT OVER THE HOOF BEATS—AND THE POUNDING WATERS.
PROFESSOR!
PROFESSOR JONES! DOCTOR KALI!
?!
SONAM TASHI!

TASHI! WE'D GIVEN YOU UP AFTER OUR TRAINS WERE UNCOUPLED!
THE BANDITS FELL UPON OUR SUPPLY TRAINS. WE DROVE THEM OFF, THEN FOLLOWED THE TRAIN TRACKS...
WHERE ARE THE OTHERS— BRINGING UP THE SUPPLIES?
THEY FOUGHT BRAVELY, DR. KALI. AN AMBUSH—
THE BANDITS...?
NO... AN ARMORED COLUMN— THE JAPANESE INVADERS.
HERE... IN AFGHANISTAN?!
HARD TO BELIEVE! THEIR "FRIENDLY MISSION" IN ASIA IS SPREADING FAR AFIELD!
WHAT DO I HEAR?
HORSEMEN, SAHIB! ANOTHER WAVE OF BANDITS!
TIME TO GO!

WE MANAGED TO ESCAPE THE SKIRMISH WITH SOME OF OUR TRUCKS AND SUPPLIES!
GOOD JOB, TASHI.
AND MORE THAN THAT, SAHIB INDY—SEE?
WELL, WELL. A NIPPONESE "LIBERATOR."
YES, AND AFTER GENTLE PERSUASION, WE LEARNED THEY HAD ONE OF THEIR NUMBER AMONG US. THEY KNOW OF OUR MISSION...
AND THEY, TOO, ARE TRYING TO UNCOVER THE BUDDHA COVENANT!
A SPY! WHO?
BUREIKA! MY BAG!
THE PRISONER COULD NOT—OR WOULD NOT—SAY! BUT THEY HAVE FOLLOWED CLOSELY...
THEY KNOW YOU LOST THE SACRED SCROLL TO THE WAZIRI. NOW THEY NO LONGER FOLLOW.
THEY ARE TAKING UP THE TRAIL OF BUDDHA'S DISCIPLES ON THEIR OWN!
WE'RE IN A RACE THEN!

INDEED. NOW WE BOTH MUST COUNT ON CLUES LEFT BY THE [illegible] AT THEIR SHRINES!


AND THE ONLY MAJOR SHRINE BETWEEN HERE AND THE FAR EAST LIES STRAIGHT AHEAD.
ON THIS TRADE ROUTE.

THERE IT IS.
THE COLOSSUS OF BAMIAN!
CUT INTO THE MOUNTAIN FROM ONE HUGE ROCK, TALLER THAN YOUR NIAGARA FALLS. NOW — STILL STANDING AFTER CENTURIES OF VANDALISM AND INVADING IDOL WRECKERS.

THE JAPANESE ARMY'S SWARMING ALL OVER THE PLACE. THEY'VE WON THE FIRST LAP
THE COVENANT COULD BRING TOGETHER ALL THE BUDDHIST FACTIONS IN ASIA — 500 MILLION STRONG.
A HUGE STEP IN FURTHERING JAPAN'S NOBLE MISSION—
TO UNITE ALL OF ASIA IN PEACE AND SECURITY.
— UNDER OUR BENEVOLENT GUIDANCE, OF COURSE.
OF COURSE!
THE COVENANT OF BUDDHA WILL MAKE JAPAN THE CRADLE OF THE NEW MESSIAH!
WE MUST HAVE IT!!
IF PROFESSOR JONES' MISSION MAKES ITS WAY HERE, SGT. TAKI — I WILL COUNT HEAVILY ON YOUR SPECIAL SKILLS!
HA!
DUSK.
A LONE SOLDIER CLIMBING.
THEN...
SUDDENLY ALERT HE MELTS INTO THE SHADOWS.
A SHERPA! ENTERING THE COMMAND TENT!
MOMENTS LATER, THE SHERPA EMERGES.
MMMF...

TASHI!
TRAITOR!
KRUSTLE
FWHSH
ACCURSED NEPAL SHERPAS!
BAREFOOTED GOATS, THEY SCAMPERED BY US ON THE FLY!
NO ROPES! NO PITONS! YET THEY ARE AT THE TOP SO SOON!

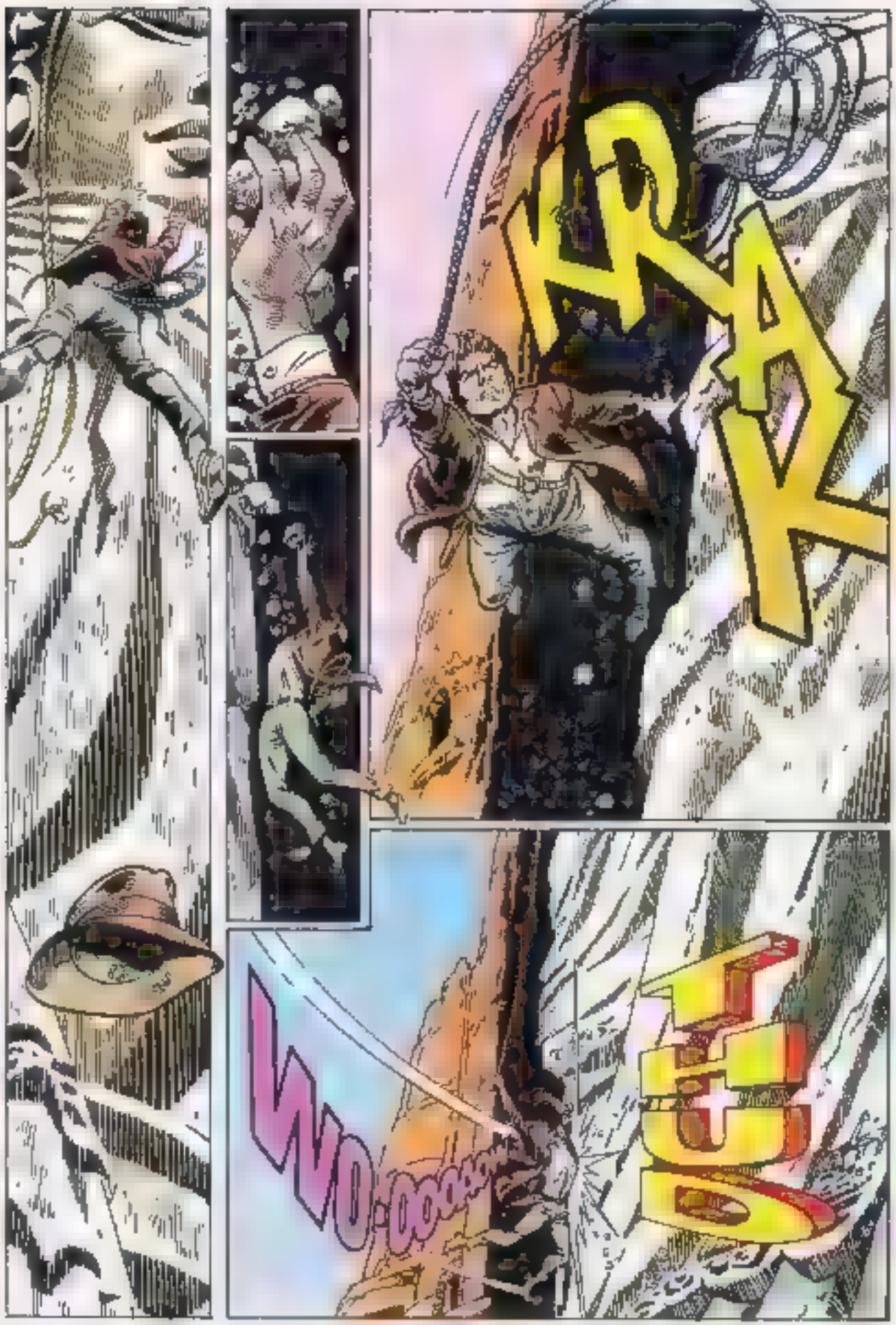
NO MATTER. THE BODY OF THE IDOL IS COVERED WITH INSCRIPTIONS!
ANY ONE COULD BE THE KEY. THE CLUE WE SEEK.
MAKE ALL THE RUBBINGS YOU CAN
SGT. ITAKI. TAKE THE STAIRCASE. KEEP TRACK OF THE SHERPAS' ALT V TIES!
さあね! TOO LATE.
WHY DID THEY QUIT SO SOON?
MUST HAVE FOUND SOMETHING
WHAT ARE THEY UP TO NOW?
WHAT DO WE HAVE, KAL-?
A CHAIN OF CLUES, I SUSPECT. LIKE A TREASURE HUNT!
THIS RUBBING— IN CLEAR SANSKRIT — IS NOT EVEN CODED.
WHAT'S LEFT OF IT!
ANY OF YOUR WILD HUNCHES, KHAMAL?
HERE, EFFENDI
IT POINTS THE WAY TO THESE UPPER CAVERNSHRINES. RECKONING THE DISTANCE GIVEN, THIS SHOULD BE THE ONE
I— I THINK.

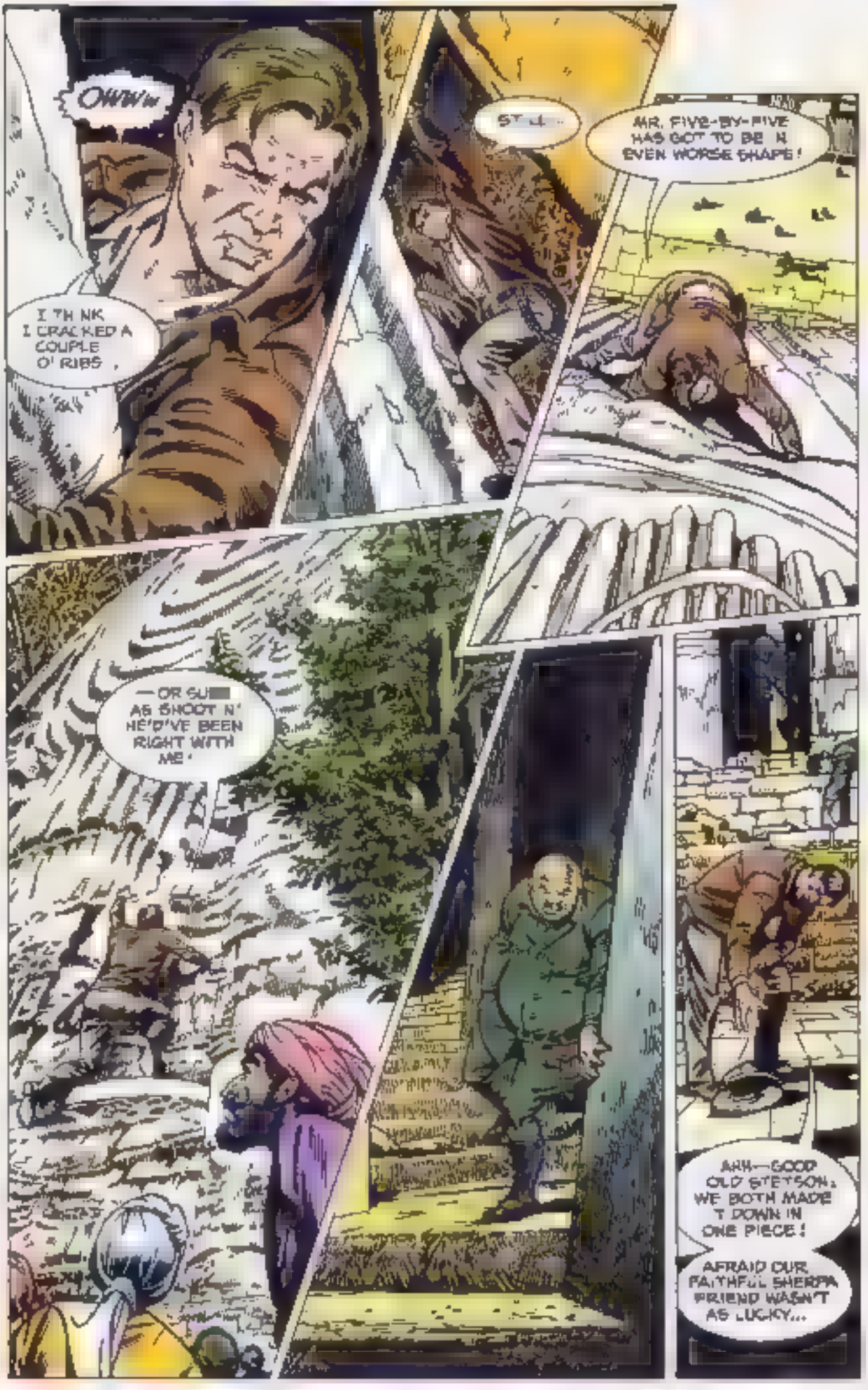
IS THIS A DEMONSTRATION OF JAPANESE SUPERIORITY? A TEAM OF CRYPTOLOGISTS, EXPERTS IN SANSKRIT,.
HONORED ONE, THE WRITINGS ARE 2000 YEARS OLD.
WORN BY WEATHER. UNCLEAR
YET YOU HAVE GATHERED NOTHING FROM ALL THESE RUBBINGS?
THE ANCIENT SANSKRIT IS NOT EASY TO DECIPHER, NOBLE GENERAL. THEY APPEAR TO BE BUT PRAYERS...QUOTES OF BUDDHA
IT IS KNOWN THE DISCIPLES KEPT RECORDS, DIARIES, EVEN MAPS OF THEIR PLANNED PILGRIMAGE!
JAPAN. YOUR EMPEROR ... I DEMAND YOU FIND THEM BEFORE JONES NEPAL TEAM DOES.
FAIL.
.. AND ONLY THE RITE OF HIRI-KIRI WILL ERASE YOUR DISHONOR!
I'M STILL AMAZED, INDY.
HOW DID THE BOY KNOW?
THE ENCODED INSTRUCTIONS, BURIED UNDER A ROCK—AND HE POINTED RIGHT TO THEM!
DON'T ASK ME, KALI! "WILD TALENTS" THEY CALL THEM!
WHATEVER. I'M GLAD HE'S ON OUR SIDE.

T S JUST AS THE G PHERED NSCR PTION STATED, NDY. SEE A SEAM OF MORTAR AROUND A BLOCK OF STONE—
SET INTO THE BACK OF THE THE HEAD IT CHIPS AWAY EAS LY..
STEADY— THE BLOCK'S COM NG LOOSE!
A HOLLOW CHAMBER...
ANYTH NG.. ?
A MAP!
WOW! OUR ROAD MAP. THEY HAD THE NEXT STOP ON THE R JOURNEY TARGETED N ADVANCE!
CLEARLY MARKED OFF!
KALI STRIKE CAMP. GET READY TO ROLL, WH LE WE PATCH THE STATUE.
SEE YOU BELOW, INDY.
THERE PROFESSOR. WET MUD, JUST AS T WAS SEALED ORIG NALLY WE LEAVE THE STATUE UNDISTURBED!

HYAAAA!-HAIIY!!!!!
BAK
CRASH
HOOOARGARRR
SNAP

いて!!
HYRA
HUARG
KRAK
FWSH


KRAK
WOOOOOSH

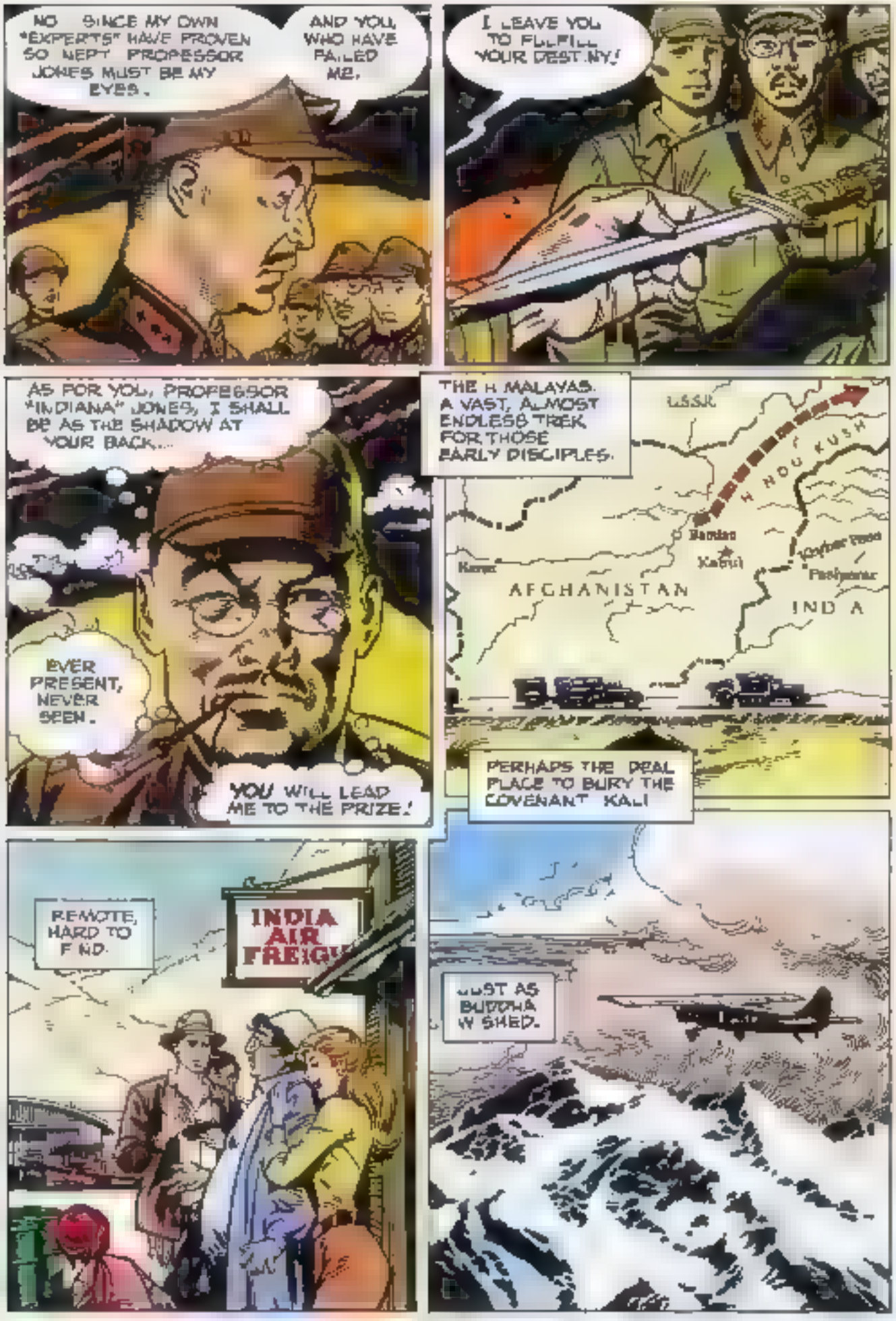

OWW!
I TH NK I CRACKED A COUPLE O' RIBS.
ST-I...
MR. FIVE-BY-FIVE HAS GOT TO BE N EVEN WORSE SHAPE!
—OR SU AS SHOOT N' HE'D'VE BEEN RIGHT WITH ME.
AHH—GOOD OLD STETSON. WE BOTH MADE T DOWN IN ONE PIECE!
AFRAID OUR FAITHFUL SHERPA FRIEND WASN'T AS LUCKY...

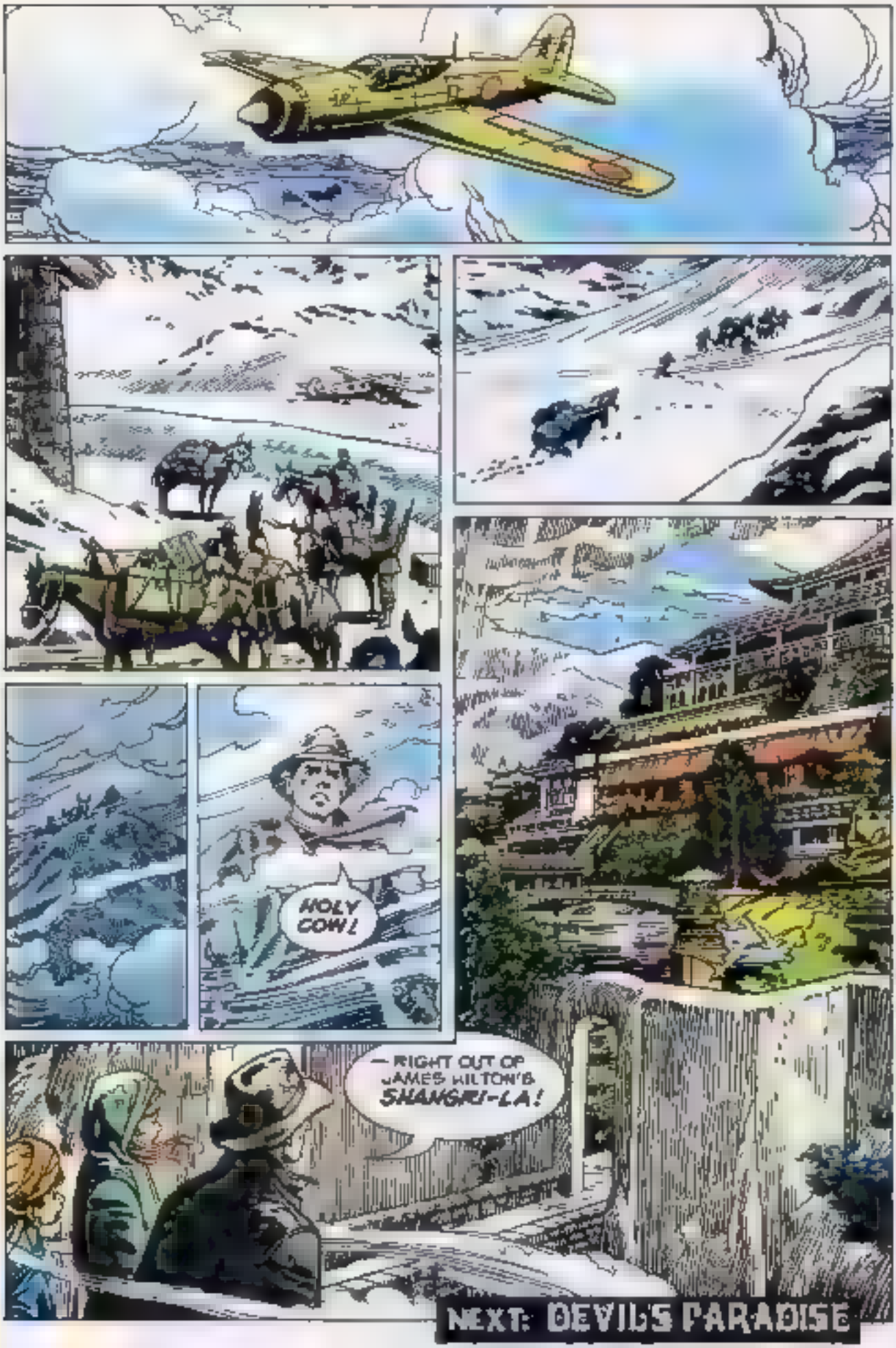
HA HA HA!
KRUNCH
WOOF

OOOOOO OHHH
HA
A
I
FOR MY LORD KYOJO.
FOR THE EMPEROR
HAAYAHH!
?!

BLAM BLAM
SPLAT
INDY!
KALI SOPHIE. GREAT SHOT I OWE MY
INDY..
WE DIDN'T
HEY WAIT A SEC! YOU CAME FROM HERE AT HIS BACK! HE WAS SHOT IN THE CHEST!
I KNOW WE DIDN'T FIRE THOSE SHOTS!
THEN WHO DID?

NOT ONE OF YOU?
NO MAAM SAHIB I HEARD NO SHOTS FROM THE CROWD!
NONE
MAYBE BUDDHA'S THANKS FOR PATCHING UP THAT HOLE IN HIS HEAD.
THIS LOWLY LIEUTENANT LACKS THE WIT OF HIS EXALTED COMMANDER HE FAILS TO UNDERSTAND WHY
WHY?! THE REASONS SHOULD BE CLEAR— EVEN TO THE MUDDLED MINDS OF MY JUN OR STAFF
I GRANT PROFESSOR JONES A STAY OF EXECUTION AND WHY, INDEED—?
SIMPLE WHERE YOU WERE BLIND JONES FOUND THE CLUES THAT WERE THERE FOR EVERYONE TO SEE
NOW HE HOLDS THE DOCUMENT I WANTED.
THEN WHY NOT SEIZE IT MY LORD GENERAL?
TO WHAT AVAIL? IF THE NEXT SHRINE IS BUT ANOTHER STEP— WHAT THEN? CAN I TRUST BLIND MEN TO DIG UP THE NEXT CLUE -AND THE NEXT?


NO SINCE MY OWN "EXPERTS" HAVE PROVEN SO INEPT PROFESSOR JONES MUST BE MY EYES.
AND YOU, WHO HAVE FAILED ME.
I LEAVE YOU TO FULFILL YOUR DESTINY!
AS FOR YOU, PROFESSOR "INDIANA" JONES, I SHALL BE AS THE SHADOW AT YOUR BACK...
EVER PRESENT, NEVER SEEN.
YOU WILL LEAD ME TO THE PRIZE!
THE H MALAYAS. A VAST, ALMOST ENDLESS TREK FOR THOSE EARLY DISCIPLES.
U.S.S.R.
H NOU KUSH
Kabul
AFGHANISTAN
IND A
PERHAPS THE IDEAL PLACE TO BURY THE COVENANT KALI
REMOTE, HARD TO F ND.
INDIA AIR
FREIG
JUST AS BUDDHA W SHED.


HOLY COW!
— RIGHT OUT OF JAMES HILTON'S SHANGRI-LA!
NEXT: DEVIL'S PARADISE

KEEPING UP WITH THE JONESES

0956 S.E. MAIN ST. MILWAUKIE, OR 97211

Dear Mr. Windham:

Some quick thoughts on the first issue of your latest *Indiana Jones* miniseries, *Thunder in the Orient*:

I don't see nearly as much of Dan Barry's work as I'd like to these days. Oh, sure, for about a year there was the monthly *Young Indiana Jones Chronicles* book, and there's still the occasional all-new Indy series like this one... but somehow, it just doesn't seem to be enough. Any chance of having this wonderful talent cloned? *(Don't I wish! — RW)*

As for the story itself, so far it's everything I could hope for in a new *Indiana Jones* storyline. A priceless archeological artifact or relic, lots of murder, intrigue, and action...not to mention hints and pieces of both romance and humor. If there's not a successful formula, I don't know what is!

I particularly like the young boy Khamal and the fact that he and Indy can't seem to agree on what to call him. Lovely bit of humor and characterization there.

The original work of Buddha, Hmm. Not quite as exciting-sounding as The Ark of the Covenant or The Holy Grail, perhaps, but an impressive archeological feat nonetheless... if Indy can pull it off with his usual style. As I'm sure he will, by story's end.

So, as is the usual case (dumb me!) for the full run. With Dan at the helm, a splendid time is guaranteed for all, if I may wax lyrical for a moment.

Later,
David Peattie
Concord, CA

Dear Ryder:

Thank you, thank you, THANK YOU, for *Indiana Jones: Thunder in the Orient*. I have been going through withdrawal ever since *Fate of Atlantis* and Rob MacGregor's paperback novel series ended.

Dave Dorman provided yet another awe-dropping cover. Dan Barry's writing and artwork were excellent. Barry has really grown into the character and writes fun action-packed stories. As to *Thunder*'s storyline, it appears to tie in with Khamal's story from the back of *Temple of Doom*'s Short Rounds. That's okay, but please don't let him go changing like so many kids in perceived in comics and TV. Bringing back Sophie was a great idea. I enjoyed her banter with Indy.

By the way, I hear that *Fate of Atlantis* artist Karl Kesel is writing and illustrating an upcoming Indy series. Any truth to this rumor? Well, till Indy's dad stops calling him Junior, make mine Dark Horse!!

Robert Wardell
[illegible] Kansas
Walpole, MA

Karl Kesel is working on Indiana Jones and The Sargasso Pirates, *but he's also writing Superman for DC. Hey, Karl! Where is that Indy story?!*

Dear Dan,

Allow me to tip my hat to you. It has been far too long of a wait for a well-presented Indiana Jones comic. The art and storylines are fantastic. (Dave, your cover is better than fantastic.)

I was quite enthused when I read that the stories would continue to flow after the *Thunder in the Orient* series.

Since history was my major in college, I've always found the storylines of interest of an idea. how about an adventure set in Germany, possibly with Hitler being prevalent in the story? Just an idea.

With Warmest Regards,
Bryon Nansinger
Collegeville, PA

That's as warm as enough that Indy unintentionally got Hitler's autograph in The Last Crusade!

Dear Ryder:

I just got *Indiana Jones: Thunder in the Orient* and thought I would write. I like what I see but I would appreciate it at some point you told us what year this story takes place.

Obviously it takes place after *Fate of Atlantis* but, exactly when? The story reminds me a lot of *Temple of Doom*, if only because of Khamal and Sophie (see Short Round and Willie Scott). Will we ever see those two again, not to mention Mac on Raiders(sic)?

By the way, when are you going to respond to my personal letter?

Delano "The Saint" Walters, Jr.

Sophie and Indy were already acquainted when her character was introduced in Fate of Atlantis. Thunder in the Orient *takes place in 1938, a year prior to the events in* Fate of Atlantis.

There aren't any current plans for Short Round and Willie, but Marion Ravenwood and her father do figure into our upcoming series.

Personal letter? Geez, Delano, get in line with my mom.

Dear Dark Horse Dudes,

Congratulations on *Indiana Jones: Thunder in the Orient* #1.

A loyal Indy and Dark Horse fan, I have managed to obtain all of the *Indiana Jones and the Fate of Atlantis* comics.

It's good to see Sophie Hapgood again! I must say, I thought she was done for after the lost Atlantis. Nice to see you've put Dan Barry and Dave Dorman back together again, too.

But what's this I hear? Another Indy series I didn't get?! Besides *Young Indy* and *Thunder*?! What's it's "The Shrine of the Sea Devil"?! Why you little—!! *"Indiana Jones and the Shrine of the Sea Devil" written and illustrated by Gary Gianni, now as a four-chapter series in* Dark Horse Comics *#3-6.*

Your faithful fan,
Jarek Dichter
[illegible] Sacred Dr.
Amherst, MA 0[illegible]07

P.S. About the enemy — good work. I was getting tired of those Nazis. But the Japanese?

Well, the story is set in 1938. Would you rather see Indy battle the Cyrax?— RW

***NEXT ISSUE:** Indy enters a lost city in Tibet, and Khamal's penchant for knife-throwing gets everyone into trouble in* Indiana Jones: Thunder in the Orient *#4.*

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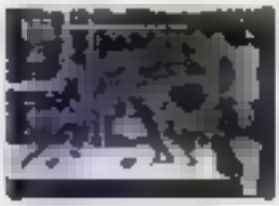

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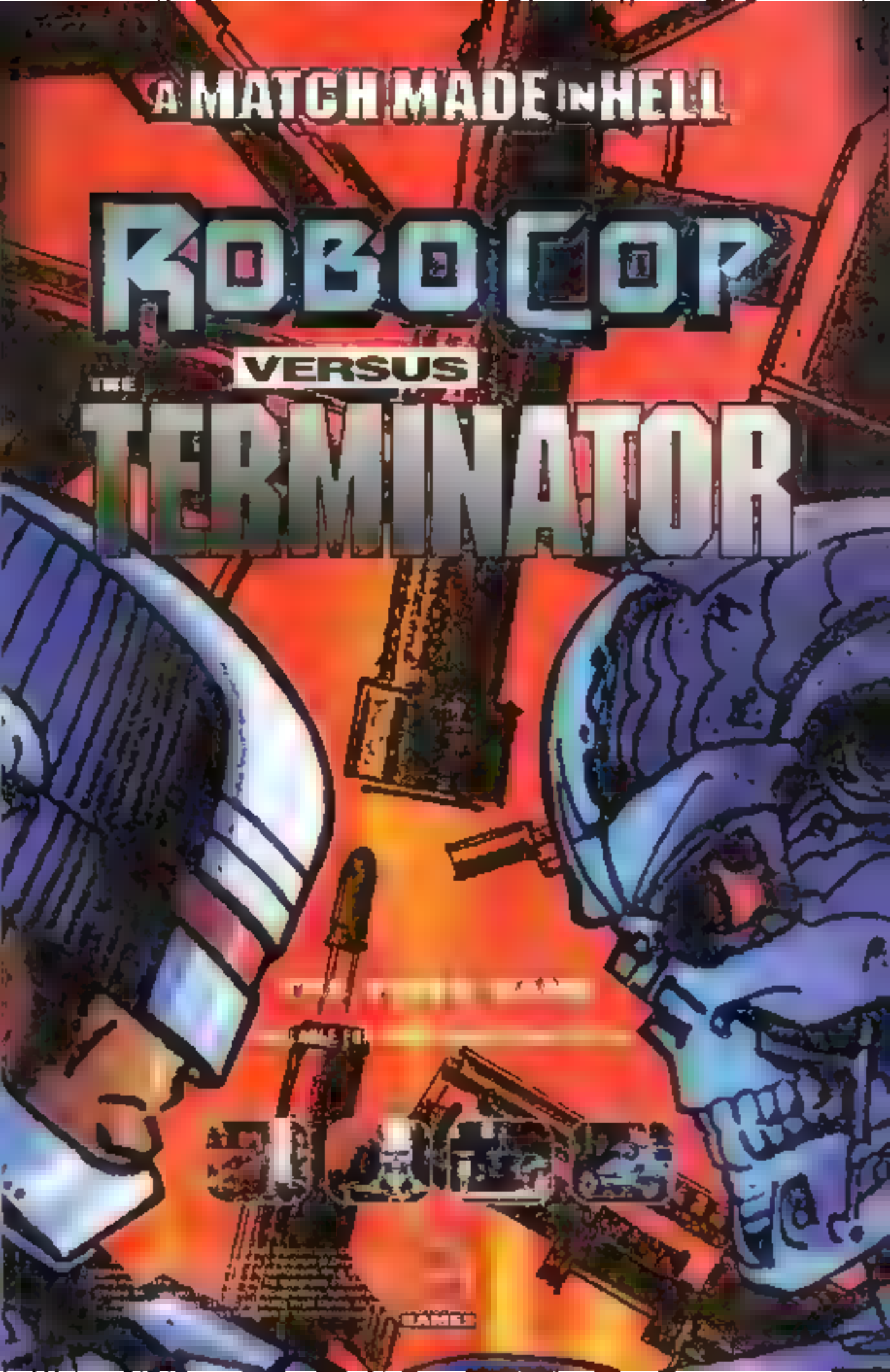
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VERSUS
THE
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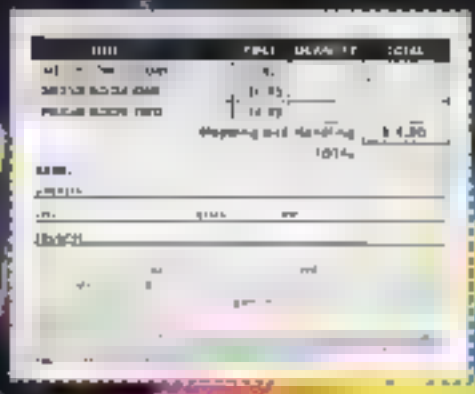

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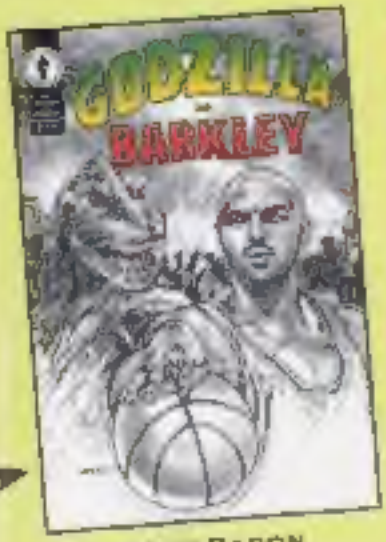

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SIN CITY

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